

REMARKS

Claims 37-62 are pending in this application. Claims 1-21, 35 and 36 have been cancelled. Claims 37-62 have been added.

Specification

The Examiner noted that the Brief Description of the Drawings was missing from the specification. The drawing description section has been added to the specification, listing and describing FIGS. 1, 2a and 2b.

The specification was objected to because the specification contained hyperlinks. The hyperlinks have been deleted from the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-10, 21, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,361,437 to Walker ("Walker"). The Office Action alleges that Walker discloses the invention. The Applicant respectfully disagrees on the basis that significant claim features and limitations are missing from Walker.

The present invention can be distinguished from Walker by the fact that the present invention utilizes a worldwide computer network (e.g., the Internet) to remotely connect to a gaming establishment's gaming machines. To accomplish this, the present invention uses an internet website that connects remote terminals over the Internet to a gaming establishment's server which, in turn, is in communication with the gaming establishment's gaming machines.

In contrast, Walker utilizes a Local Area Network (LAN) to connect the gaming establishment's gaming machines through the gaming establishment's slot network server. Walker states:

The remote wagering terminals 5 also communicate with the slot network server 4 being coupled to the slot network server 4 via a remote wagering terminal network 10. The remote wagering terminal network 10 is a conventional local area network that is controlled by the server 4. (Column 4, lines 19-23.)

The local area network described by Walker is **not** a global computing network (Internet), as it only serves terminals that are directly connected to this LAN. Local area networks typically are installed within a very limited geographical range, generally within a building, or, as in this case, within the gaming establishment itself. The remote terminals, the gaming machines, and the slot network server, all connected by a LAN, are all generally located within the gaming establishment. This is in sharp contrast to the present invention which utilizes a global computing network that allows any personal computer to access a gaming establishment's gaming machines from anywhere in the world. The remote terminals described in Walker's patent must be connected to a local area network, preventing them from being used on a global basis.

Furthermore, the remote terminals described by Walker have player tracking card readers and even potentially coin hoppers. Walker states:

Each remote wagering terminal 5 includes a keypad 7 and a player tracking card reader 8. (Column 4, lines 23-25.)

. . . each remote wagering terminal 5 has a starting controller 580, a hopper controller 590, and a hopper 600. As with each slot machine 2, these components are coupled to the CPU 510. (Column 8, lines 9-12.)

Walker's terminals, because of their specialized equipment (i.e., player tracking card readers and potentially coin hoppers), are intended for use in a limited area where such peripheral devices can be maintained by the gaming establishment, and confirms the localized nature of the remote terminals. This is in contrast to use of the Internet and an internet gaming site to relay

game outcomes from a gaming machine through a gaming server to a personal computer anywhere in the world.

To further overcome this rejection, all remaining independent claims recite a “gaming site” and a “gaming server” to enable gaming machine outcome data to be delivered to a remote terminal over a “global computing network”. For example, independent claim 37 states:

. . . accessing, via a remote terminal, a gaming site on a global computer network connected to said remote terminal; . . . said outcome data being generated by one of a gaming server and a gaming machine at said gaming establishment and relayed to said gaming site.

Claim 38 also recites the key components required for an Internet connected wagering method, which states in apart:

A remote gaming method using a gaming server, a remote terminal, and a gaming site on a global computer network, said gaming server being located at a gaming establishment, said remote terminal being located outside said gaming establishment, said gaming site being provided on said global computer network . . .

Claim 39 also recites the key components required for an Internet connected wagering method, which states in apart:

. . . establishing a communication link between said remote terminal and a gaming site on a global computer network, said gaming site in communication with a server for collecting outcome data from gaming machines located inside the gaming establishment; . . .

Claim 52 also recites the components required for the Internet connection of the remote terminals to the gaming machines:

A remote computer for the remote play of a local gaming machine . . . connected to a gaming server, said remote computer connected to a gaming site through a global computing network . . .

Claim 62 also recites the components required for the Internet connection of the remote terminals to the gaming machines:

A remote computer located outside a gaming establishment . . . having a plurality of gaming machines linked by a gaming server, said remote computer connected to a gaming site through a global computing network served by said gaming server . . .

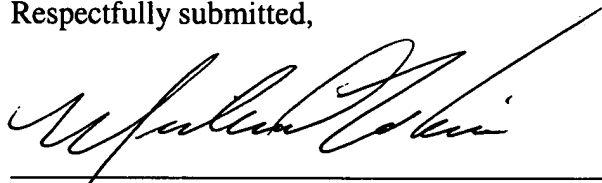
The Applicant maintains that the use of a worldwide global computing network (e.g., the Internet) and a gaming site on that network to deliver gaming machine game outcomes from a gaming establishment to remote terminals anywhere in the world is a novel and non-obvious feature over Walker.

Conclusion

The Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance, and action towards that end is earnestly solicited.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 5, 2003